Gauge Conversion of Nagore-Bangalore railway line

2295. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering to lay a broad gauge line between Nagore and Bangalore via Dharmapuri and Thiruvannamalai;

(b) whether any survey in this regard has been carried out; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and when such survey will be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no plan at present for taking up any such survey. However, the Gauge Conversion of Tiruchchirappalli-Nagore and Hosur-Salem via Dharmapuri when completed will provide a broad gauge connection between Nagore and Bangalore.

Ban on the production and use of Toxic Chlorinated Pesticides

2296. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that India is one of the few countries still manufacturing and using most toxic chlorinated pesticides, some of which are targetted for global phase out by the world community; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to stop the production and use of such toxic chlorinated pesticides in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) Under the Insecticides Act, 1968, ten organochlorine pesticides, namely, Aldrin, Chlordane, Chlorbenzilate, DDT, Dieldrin, Endrin, Endosulfan, HCH, Heptachlor and y-HCH have been registered in the country for manufacture and use. Out of these ten pesticides, four pesticides, namely, Aldrin, Endrin, Chlordane, and Heptachlor are banned for import/manufacture and use in the country. The remaining six pesticides have also been reviewed by the Government and the following decisions have been taken:

(i) *Dieldrin:* The use of Dieldrin has been restricted with effect from 25.5.90 for locust control in desert areas.

(ii) DDT: The use of DDT has been withdrawn in agriculture with effect from 26.5.89. Its use in public health programmes is allowed upto 10,000 tonnes per annum.

(iii) Endosulfan: The use of Endosulfan has been reviewed and allowed without any restriction.

(iv) y-HCH: The use of y-HCH has been banned on vegetables/ fruits, oilseed crops and for preservation of foodgrains with effect from 30.10.90. Further, the Government has decided to ban the yHCH with effect from 1.4.97.

(v) Gamma HCH (Lindane): The use of Lindane formulations generating smoke for indoor use is prohibited in India with effect from 4.9.92. However, the Lindane has been allowed to be produced in the country for use for the control of insect pests of field crops.

(vi) Chlorbenzilate: The use of Chlorbenzilate in agriculture is banned with effect from 25.7.89. If required, it can be imported by the Government/ Semi-Government organisations for controlling mites of honeybees.

Ban on Agro-Chemicals

2297. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleasd to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ban certain agro-chemicals in the light of their adverse impact on agricultural workers in some countries;

(b) if so, the details of the agro-chemicals affecting adversely on agricultural workers; and

(c) by when such agro-chemicals would be banned in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Agro-chemicals popularly known as pesticides

are toxic in nature and can have adverse impact on agricultural workers if used without observing the prescribed norms and precautions to ensure safety. As on today, 142 pesticides have been registered for use in India by Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968, only after satisfying itself regarding their safety to human beings including agricultural workers.

(c) Review of the use etc. of pesticides and consequential banning by the Government is a continuous process. As on today, 19 pesticides are banned as a result of such reviews.

Modification in Conservation Policies to involve local people

2298. SHRI ANANTA SETHI:
SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are satisfied with its Conservation Policies in stopping the environmental destruction being caused by rampant industrial and urban growth;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) whether Government also realise their effect on the traditional forest and wetland dependent communities;

(d) whether Government also realise the need to change top-down elitist environmental programmes which have alienated the local communities, and explore ways of empowering them to become equal partners in conservation building and ensuring their livelihood security;

(e) whether Government have received any representation in this regard; and

(f) if so, the action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

Non-functioning of Railway enquiry System in Delhi

2299. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-working of Railway Enquiry Service available on Phone No. 131 and 1330 to 1339 since morning of November 19, 1996 was reported in all local dailies of Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether rectification of fault and availability of service was also reported in all dailies enabling travelling public to make use of the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action required to be taken for such negligence and irresponsible working of Railway officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Due to fault in telecommunication lines, nonfunctioning of 24 service lines on railway enquiry telephone Nos. 131 and 1330 to 1339 from 19.11.96 was notified in 10 local dailies of Delhi on 21.11.1996 for information of the public.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) When the telecommunication lines were rectified, passengers got through to the railway telephone enquiry easily and no separate notification in this regard was, therefore, issued. No negligence or irresponsible working of any railway official was involved in this regard.

Research on the Development of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

2300. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether new techniques have been developed in the field of Animal Husbandry and dairying by any Research Centre;

(b) the steps taken to extend information to the concerned people and encourage them; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to check the continuous fall in the number of various animals?